

This proclamation recognizes and salutes all those who currently serve as members of Human Resources Command—St. Louis—soldiers and civilians alike—and all who have gone before them who have made countless contributions to the United States of America. As the Army's Human Resources transformation continues, the soldiers and civilians of HRC—St. Louis will continue to make many more significant contributions to the soldiers and our Nation as a part of the U.S. Army's Human Resources Command.●

HONORING THE MEMORY OF WILLIAM L. PIERCE

● Mr. CRAIG. Mr. President, as cochair of the Congressional Coalition on Adoption, I rise today to remember the recently passed William L. Pierce, a man who dedicated his life to helping children. As founder and president of the National Council on Adoption, William Pierce was a leading adoption advocate who worked tirelessly to help formulate and promote several major adoption policies over the last 25 years. To name a few:

The Infant Adoption Awareness Act created the Infant Adoption Training Program, which trains health and pregnancy counselors in presenting adoption as an option for unplanned pregnancies; the Multi-Ethnic Placement Act of 1994 reduced obstacles to many adoptions; the Adoption and Safe Families Act of 1997 promoted adoptions out of foster care by removing barriers to adoption and creating incentives for States to place more foster children with adoptive families; and the Economic Growth and Tax Relief Reconciliation Act of 2001 included provisions to permanently extend and expand the tax credit for adoption expenses and the employer-based adoption assistance program.

William Pierce's consistent advocacy of pro-child adoption policies helped improve the lives of countless children, birthparents, and families. He was an outstanding husband, father, grandfather, citizen, advocate, and leader. I remember him today.●

TRIBUTE TO THE UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY VARSITY CHEER- LEADERS

● Mr. BUNNING. Mr. President, I pay tribute in the Senate to University of Kentucky Varsity Cheerleaders. The squad was named the national champions in the Universal Cheerleaders Association-sponsored competition earlier this year.

The Wildcats coed varsity cheerleading squad was awarded their 13th national title in Division I-A. This is their 9th championship in the last 10 years. It wouldn't be wrong to say that they are the most successful team in the history of this competition, and I and so many others are so proud of them.

The Commonwealth of Kentucky should be very proud of this squad, and

I know they are. Their example of hard work and determination should be followed by all in the Commonwealth.

Congratulations to the members of the varsity squads for their success. But also, I want to congratulate their coach, Jomo Thompson, along with their peers, faculty, administrators, and parents for their support and sacrifices they've made to help the Wildcats meet their cheerleading achievements and dreams. Keep up the good work.●

TRIBUTE TO THE MOREHEAD STATE UNIVERSITY VARSITY CHEERLEADERS

● Mr. BUNNING. Mr. President, I pay tribute to the Morehead State University Varsity Cheerleaders. The squad was named the national champions in the Universal Cheerleaders Association-sponsored competition earlier this year.

The Morehead State University coed varsity cheerleading squad was awarded their 14th national title in Division I. Along with winning the overall title, Morehead State University received second place in the all-girl squad.

The citizens of Morehead, KY, are proud to have Morehead State University cheerleading champs living and learning in their community. Their example of hard work and determination should be followed by all in the Commonwealth.

I congratulate the members of the varsity squad for their success. But also, I want to congratulate their coach, Myron Doan, along with their peers, faculty, administrators, and parents for their support and sacrifices they've made to help them meet those achievements and dreams.●

TRIBUTE TO LINDA KURZ

● Mr. BOND. Mr. President, Sieglinde Kurz received her bachelor of arts degree from Fontbonne College, St. Louis, MO, in 1961 and her masters degree in Health Care Management from Northwestern University, Evanston, IL, in 1976.

Linda Kurz started her career with the Department of Veterans Affairs in November 1965 as a Research Chemist in Renal Hypertension Research at the St. Louis VA Medical Center.

Linda Kurz, during her government career, was the Administrative Assistant to the Associate Director, Hines, IL; Associate Director, VA Medical Center, Tomah, WI; Associate Deputy Regional Director, Northeastern Region, Albany, NY; Associate Director, VA Medical Center, Marion, IL; Director, Construction Project Coordination and Budget, VA Headquarters, Washington, DC; Director, VA Medical Center, Marion, IL. She left the Marion VAMC to accept the position of Director at the St. Louis VAMC.

Linda Kurz served as director of the St. Louis VA for 5 years and 8 months from May 1998 thru January 2004, one

of the largest and most complex VA facilities in the Nation.

Linda Kurz provided leadership for this dual division hospital, providing care for in excess of 36,000 veterans annually, within a primary service area of metropolitan St. Louis, including 9 counties in Missouri and 14 counties in West Central Illinois and lead a care team of 1,900 full time employee equivalents.

Linda's life time achievements include: A leader in the health care management field, mentor for VHA Health Care Management Trainees, Executive Career Field Director Trainees and achieved the status of Diplomat in the American College of Healthcare Executives.

Linda Kurz, was listed as one of the Top Female Directors in Missouri Hospital Association Newsletter, Summer 2003 Edition and in Who's Who Among Top Executives in 1998-1999 and Linda Kurz, during her tenure as Director, St. Louis VA Medical Center was recognized in 1999, with the Vice-Presidential "Hammer and Scissors" award for her efforts in piloting the first Department of Veterans Affairs Canteen Integration.

During her tenure at the St. Louis VA, Linda has worked tirelessly to improve access to care for veterans and opened three health clinics; she supported her employees by providing educational opportunities for mid-level managers through programs such as mini-MBA and she promoted an open policy, communicating with staff at all levels by establishing employee and supervisory forums.

Linda Kurz will retire January 31, 2004, after 37 years of government service, having devoted countless hours and years to the welfare of the American Veterans.●

LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ACT OF 2003

● Mr. SMITH. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about the need for hate crimes legislation. On May 1, 2003, Senator KENNEDY and I introduced the Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act, a bill that would add new categories to current hate crimes law, sending a signal that violence of any kind is unacceptable in our society.

I would like to describe a terrible crime that occurred in Leawood, KS. Gary Raynal, an openly gay man, was found dead under an apartment deck after being tortured and severely beaten. Raynal had been sexually tortured with a metal rod, his ears had been burned and his throat showed signs of strangulation.

I believe that Government's first duty is to defend its citizens, to defend them against the harms that come out of hate. The Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act is a symbol that can become substance. I believe that by passing this legislation and changing current law, we can change hearts and minds as well.●